

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4927

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2003

UPLINKING PERMISSION TO FOREIGN CHANNELS

AKHILESH SINGH;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are giving uplinking permission to some foreign television news channels;
- (b) if so, whether the national security aspect has been considered;
- (c) whether the Government have announced the guidelines in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the names of the channels alongwith owners of the channels to whom the guidelines for television news channels from and to India are likely to be applied;
- (f) the benefit likely to be derived by the Government and viewers after issuing these guidelines; and
- (g) to what extent these guidelines are likely to be helpful to regulate news channels?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): Keeping in view all concerns, including security concerns, the guidelines for uplinking of foreign news channels from India were issued on March 26, 2003. The Guidelines, inter-alia, permit foreign equity holding in the applicant company up to 26% of the total paid up capital and require the company to be registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956 and majority of Directors, CEO and News Editor(s) to be Resident Indians.

Further, the permission for usage of facilities/infrastructure for live news/footage collection and transmission, irrespective of the technology used, will be given to only those channels which are uplinked from India and the channel/company will ensure that its news and current affairs content provider(s), if any, are accredited with the Press Information Bureau.

(e) : M/s. Zee Telefilms Ltd. has to comply with the new regime within one year. M/s. Star New Broadcasting Ltd. and BBC, which are 100% foreign companies, have been advised to apply afresh, as per the provisions of the revised guidelines

(f) to (g): In influencing public opinion, Television is, if not more, as powerful as the print media. In the given socio-cultural environment of the country and in the larger interests of the security and safety of the State, it is therefore not desirable to permit a foreign owned and managed company to uplink news and current affairs programmes from India.